

Regional Director's Report

April 18, 2013

Regional Updates

Fiscal Year 2013 Expenditure Report

- Please refer to attachment #4

Quarter 2 Data Report

- Please refer to attachment #5

Fiscal Year 2014 Renewal Process

- In addition to the region specific grant renewals considered today, the Regional Council will have the 3 cross-regional grant renewals to consider for possible approval at the May 16 Meeting in Vail. **It is imperative all are members be present at the May 16th meeting to ensure quorum.**
- Grant renewals will be considered and up for approval at the FTF Board meeting on June 10th-11th.

Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships Strategy

- A minimum Star Rating of 3 is required for the currently participating programs to continue to be eligible to receive the Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships beginning in Fiscal Year 2014 (July 1, 2013).
- During the Fiscal Year 2014 strategic planning process and funding plan discussions in the Fall of 2012, the Regional Council and staff discussed the possibility of transitioning participating programs off of the Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships strategy, should any of the programs not reach a 3 Star Rating through the Quality First assessment.
- Although Star Ratings at this time are confidential (with an anticipated August release of all Star Rating information), the initial results of the assessments are informing us that the participating South Pima Pre-Kindergarten programs will be eligible to continue participation in the Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships in Fiscal Year 2014.
- On March 29th, Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships partner, Arizona Department of Education held an informational meeting for interested programs. The application process will remain open until mid-April and ADE will begin reviewing the applications and proposed numbers of pre-k children served through each eligible program.
- The Regional Council will continue to receive updates on the progress of the ratings of these participating programs, the number of children to be served, the provider type (i.e. school district, community-based, etc.) as the new fiscal year begins.

2014 Regional Needs and Assets

- South Pima, North Pima and Central Pima all designated Donelson Consulting to carry out their 2014 Regional Needs and Assets report during their February 2013 meetings.
- On April 3rd, the Needs and Assets vendors participated in a statewide call with the FTF Research and Evaluation team.
- The Donelson Consulting team is anticipated to present options on the Needs and Assets base report at the June 21th meeting.

Family, Friend and Neighbor Strategy

- Central Pima and South Pima have committed to a joint partnership and joint release of a Request For Grant Application (RFGA) to serve Family, Friend and Neighbor Caregivers.
- The release was in early March and the Pre-Application was held on March 12th. The RFGA was due Monday, April 15.
- The RFGA review process will begin in late April with the anticipation of the recommendation for award to be presented to the Regional Council at the May 16th Regional Council meeting.

School Readiness Indicators Benchmarking Workgroup

- At the Chairs meeting in October 2012, the Pima County Chairs and Vice Chairs agreed to convening an ongoing workgroup to initiate discussion and brainstorming on how to benchmark the selected Indicators, particularly those Indicators in which the three Pima Regional Councils have collectively prioritized.
- In addition to the three Pima Regional Councils, the three Regional Councils that make up the Southeast Area, Tohono O'odham Nation, Pascua Yaqui Tribe and Santa Cruz also agreed to work together in the Benchmarking process.
- The workgroup met for the first time on April 4th with Dr. Amy Kemp, Senior Director of Research and Evaluation and will continue to meet to draft recommendations to bring back to the Regional Council for consideration.

Statewide Updates

FTF State Board Meeting

- The FTF State Board met on April 8th and 9th in Payson. A summary of highlights and decisions made by the State Board are anticipated to be sent to members by the FTF Communications Team in the near future.

Coming Soon: Quality First Proposed Model Changes

- Quality First, one of FTF's signature statewide programs, continues to strengthen, evolve and grow.
- In the near future, some proposed changes to the Quality First model will be released to be vetted.
- Your input is crucial- FTF would like feedback from Regional Councils, early care and education providers, partners and community stakeholders.
- Should any proposed changes take effect, they would be implemented beginning July 1, 2014, which is the beginning of Fiscal Year 2015.

Board Roundtable Discussions

- Representatives of the FTF State Board met with Regional Councils in their local areas to dialog with Regional Council members. The roundtable discussions replaced the tradition of the Regional Council Chair and/or Vice Chair presenting the funding plan at the January Board meeting.
- The Southeast Area Roundtable was held on March 6 with Chairman Steven Lynn, Member Janice Decker and Ex-Officio Member Brad Willis, who represents DES, in attendance. Special thanks to Chair Fran Driver, Members Connie Espinoza, Tony Bruno, Connie Espinoza, Debbie Palmer and Cheryl McGlothlen for attending on behalf of the South Pima Regional Council.
- It was an excellent opportunity for Regional Councils to share with the State Board highlights in the region, pose questions to the State Board and to have an open-ended dialog amongst Regional Councils and Board.

Save the Date

April 18- Community and Regional Council forums on the regional boundary Taskforce recommendations. Both meetings will be held from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

- **Regional Council Members:** FTF Tucson Office, 3610 North Prince Village, Suite 100, Tucson, AZ 85719
- **Community Members:** Westside Police Center, 1310 West Miracle Mile, Tucson, AZ 85705

May 16- South Pima Regional Council Meeting, Vail Education Center District Office, Board Room, 13801 E. Benson Highway, Vail AZ 85641.